

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 30. (Canceled)

31. **(Currently Amended)** A method for detecting colon cancer associated with expression of a nucleic acid in a test cell sample, comprising the steps of:

(i) detecting a level of expression of at least one Dickkopf-like 1 (DKKL1) nucleic acid consisting of 15 to 30 consecutive nucleotides, or the complement thereof, spanning positions 329 and 330 of clone 379-RS3 (SEQ ID NO. 15) shown in Figures 3A-3E; and

(ii) comparing the level of expression of the nucleic acid in the test sample with a level of expression of nucleic acid in a normal cell sample, wherein an altered level of expression of the nucleic acid in the test cell sample relative to the level of nucleic acid expression in the normal cell sample is indicative of the presence of colon cancer in the test cell sample.

32. - 39. (Canceled)

40. **(Currently Amended)** A method for detecting colon cancer associated with expression of a nucleic acid in a test cell sample, comprising the steps of:

(i) detecting a level of expression of at least one DKKL1 nucleic acid consisting of 15 to 30 consecutive nucleotides, or the complement thereof, spanning positions 188 and 189 of clone 379-RS4 (SEQ ID NO. 25) shown in Figures 3A-3E; and

(ii) comparing the level of expression of the nucleic acid in the test sample with a level of expression of nucleic acid in a normal cell sample, wherein an altered level of expression of the nucleic acid in the test cell sample relative to the level of nucleic acid expression in the normal cell sample is indicative of the presence of cancer in the test cell sample.